

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration given the present application. Claims 2-5 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 6-9 have been canceled through this Reply. Claim 2 is independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the Amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-5 are allowed.

Amendments

The amendments made to the claims do not add any new matter and do not raise any new issues.

In response to the September 15, 2008 Advisory Action, claims 1 and 6-9 are canceled.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,655,133 to Mikami et al. (Mikami) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,941,066 to Araki et al. (Araki) and U.S. Patent No. 6,634,345 to Yoshizaki et al. (Yoshizaki); and rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mikami in view of Araki and Yoshizaki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,137,248 to Schaller. These rejections are rendered moot due to the cancellation of rejected claims 1 and 6-9.

Application No.: 10/531,329
After Final Office Action of May 28, 2008

Docket No.: 1575-0155PUS1

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims based on the applied references is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

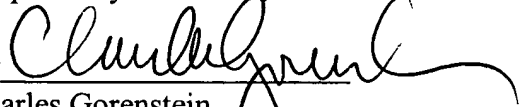
In view of the above Amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Obert H. Chu, Reg. No. 52,744 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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